

REMARKS

Claims 12, 14-37, 51-57, 61-66, 68-82, and 84-86 are pending in the above-identified application. In the non-final office action dated April 20, 2006, the Examiner made the following disposition:

- A.) Allowed claims 23-37, 51-57, 62-66, 68-82, and 84-86.
- B.) Rejected claims 12 and 14-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Yahiro, et al.* in view of *Mitome, et al.*

Applicants address the Examiner's disposition below. Claims 12 and 14-22 have been canceled. Claims 23-27 have each been amended to correct informalities. Specifically, a comma was added in each claim to clarify the claim language.

- A.) Allowance of claims 23-37, 51-57, 62-66, 68-82, and 84-86:

Applicants respectfully acknowledge the Examiner's finding of allowable subject matter in claims 23-37, 51-57, 62-66, 68-82, and 84-86.

- B.) Rejection of claims 12 and 14-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Yahiro, et al.* in view of *Mitome, et al.*:

Claims 12 and 14-22 have been canceled without prejudice.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 30, 2006

By: /Christopher P. Rauch/
Christopher P. Rauch
Registration No. 45,034
SONNENSCHN NATH & ROSENTHAL LLP
P.O. Box 061080
Wacker Drive Station, Sears Tower
Chicago, Illinois 60606-1080
(312) 876-8000